



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

Refer to:

OSB1997-693-RI

December 15, 1997

James Furnish
Forest Supervisor
Siuslaw National Forest
P. O. Box 1148
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

RE: Reinitiation of Conference for Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project, Yaquina River Watershed, Siuslaw National Forest, that May Affect Oregon Coast Steelhead

Dear Mr. Furnish:

On March 6, 1997, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued an Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 7 conference opinion for ongoing (through May 31, 1998) and proposed actions within the Siuslaw National Forest (Siuslaw NF), the Salem District Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Eugene District BLM in the Oregon Coast Range Province. On December 9, 1997, Mike Clady (Siuslaw NF, personal communication with Garwin Yip, NMFS) requested a reinitiation of the conference on Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project.

The contractor for the proposed project, Western Timber Company, submitted letters to the Siuslaw NF on December 4, 1997, requesting permission to operate outside the normal operating season on units #22 and 24. The NMFS determined that harvest operations and hauling during dry periods in the winter will not affect Oregon Coast steelhead in a manner, or to an extent, not previously considered in the March 6, 1997, conference opinion. However, new construction of spur roads that may be necessary for operations in unit #22 may result in excessive sediment and erosion during winter rainy periods. Therefore, the NMFS recommends that road construction should not occur during the winter.

Section 7(a)(1) of the ESA directs Federal agencies to utilize their authorities to further the purposes of the ESA by carrying out conservation programs for the benefit of the threatened and endangered species. Conservation recommendations are discretionary measures suggested to minimize or avoid adverse effects of a proposed action on listed species, to minimize or avoid adverse modification of critical habitat, or to develop additional information. The following conservation recommendations are consistent with these obligations and should be implemented by the Siuslaw NF to the maximum extent possible:



1. Winter harvest operations shall be limited to dry periods only. A fishery biologist shall be available to determine when weather and road conditions permit winter hauling. The

Siuslaw NF retains the authority to restrict winter hauling if road conditions may result in excessive sedimentation or damage to riparian and aquatic resources; and

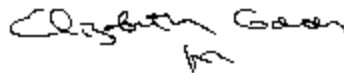
2. New road construction shall be limited to the summer dry season.

Should Oregon Coast steelhead become listed under the ESA, or should critical habitat be designated, the NMFS expects the March 6, 1997, conference opinion, and this letter, to serve as the basis for a biological opinion on implementation of Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project, pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.10(d).

This concludes reinitiation of conference for Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project in accordance with 50 CFR § 402.16. The Siuslaw NF must reinitiate conference if new information becomes available or circumstances occur that may affect the above mentioned species in a manner or to an extent not previously not considered, or if a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the actions.

If you have any specific questions please contact Garwin Yip at (503) 230-5419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Stelle, Jr.", with a stylized flourish underneath.

William Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator

cc: Mike Clady - USFS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

Refer to:

OSB1997-693-RI

December 15, 1997

James Furnish
Forest Supervisor
Siuslaw National Forest
P. O. Box 1148
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

RE: Reinitiation of Conference for Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project, Yaquina River Watershed, Siuslaw National Forest, that May Affect Oregon Coast Steelhead

Dear Mr. Furnish:

On March 6, 1997, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued an Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 7 conference opinion for ongoing (through May 31, 1998) and proposed actions within the Siuslaw National Forest (Siuslaw NF), the Salem District Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Eugene District BLM in the Oregon Coast Range Province. On December 9, 1997, Mike Clady (Siuslaw NF, personal communication with Garwin Yip, NMFS) requested a reinitiation of the conference on Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project.

The contractor for the proposed project, Western Timber Company, submitted letters to the Siuslaw NF on December 4, 1997, requesting permission to operate outside the normal operating season on units #22 and 24. The NMFS determined that harvest operations and hauling during dry periods in the winter will not affect Oregon Coast steelhead in a manner, or to an extent, not previously considered in the March 6, 1997, conference opinion. However, new construction of spur roads that may be necessary for operations in unit #22 may result in excessive sediment and erosion during winter rainy periods. Therefore, the NMFS recommends that road construction should not occur during the winter.

Section 7(a)(1) of the ESA directs Federal agencies to utilize their authorities to further the purposes of the ESA by carrying out conservation programs for the benefit of the threatened and endangered species. Conservation recommendations are discretionary measures suggested to minimize or avoid adverse effects of a proposed action on listed species, to minimize or avoid adverse modification of critical habitat, or to develop additional information. The following conservation recommendations are consistent with these obligations and should be implemented by the Siuslaw NF to the maximum extent possible:



1. Winter harvest operations shall be limited to dry periods only. A fishery biologist shall be available to determine when weather and road conditions permit winter hauling. The

Siuslaw NF retains the authority to restrict winter hauling if road conditions may result in excessive sedimentation or damage to riparian and aquatic resources; and

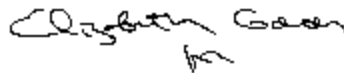
2. New road construction shall be limited to the summer dry season.

Should Oregon Coast steelhead become listed under the ESA, or should critical habitat be designated, the NMFS expects the March 6, 1997, conference opinion, and this letter, to serve as the basis for a biological opinion on implementation of Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project, pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.10(d).

This concludes reinitiation of conference for Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project in accordance with 50 CFR § 402.16. The Siuslaw NF must reinitiate conference if new information becomes available or circumstances occur that may affect the above mentioned species in a manner or to an extent not previously not considered, or if a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the actions.

If you have any specific questions please contact Garwin Yip at (503) 230-5419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Stelle, Jr.", with a stylized flourish underneath.

William Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator

cc: Mike Clady - USFS

bcc: F/PR2 - P. Montanio
F/PR8 - R. Ziobro F/NWO3 - File Copy, G. Yip
HCD Files - [693]
GCNW - M. Eames
F/NW0 - NWR Secretary
Electronic copy to Joshua Moldover (NMFS-5)

J:\ADMINPDX\OSB\Biological Opinions\1997\Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration
Project\OSB1997-0693_Reiniation_12-15-1997.wpd

OSB § 7 #: OSB1997-0693-RI

Address for cc:

Mike Clady
Siuslaw National Forest
P.O. Box 1148
Corvallis, Oregon 97330



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

Refer to:

OSB1997-693-RI

December 15, 1997

James Furnish
Forest Supervisor
Siuslaw National Forest
P. O. Box 1148
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

RE: Reinitiation of Conference for Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project, Yaquina River Watershed, Siuslaw National Forest, that May Affect Oregon Coast Steelhead

Dear Mr. Furnish:

On March 6, 1997, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued an Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 7 conference opinion for ongoing (through May 31, 1998) and proposed actions within the Siuslaw National Forest (Siuslaw NF), the Salem District Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Eugene District BLM in the Oregon Coast Range Province. On December 9, 1997, Mike Clady (Siuslaw NF, personal communication with Garwin Yip, NMFS) requested a reinitiation of the conference on Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project.

The contractor for the proposed project, Western Timber Company, submitted letters to the Siuslaw NF on December 4, 1997, requesting permission to operate outside the normal operating season on units #22 and 24. The NMFS determined that harvest operations and hauling during dry periods in the winter will not affect Oregon Coast steelhead in a manner, or to an extent, not previously considered in the March 6, 1997, conference opinion. However, new construction of spur roads that may be necessary for operations in unit #22 may result in excessive sediment and erosion during winter rainy periods. Therefore, the NMFS recommends that road construction should not occur during the winter.

Section 7(a)(1) of the ESA directs Federal agencies to utilize their authorities to further the purposes of the ESA by carrying out conservation programs for the benefit of the threatened and endangered species. Conservation recommendations are discretionary measures suggested to minimize or avoid adverse effects of a proposed action on listed species, to minimize or avoid adverse modification of critical habitat, or to develop additional information. The following conservation recommendations are consistent with these obligations and should be implemented by the Siuslaw NF to the maximum extent possible:



1. Winter harvest operations shall be limited to dry periods only. A fishery biologist shall be available to determine when weather and road conditions permit winter hauling. The

Siuslaw NF retains the authority to restrict winter hauling if road conditions may result in excessive sedimentation or damage to riparian and aquatic resources; and

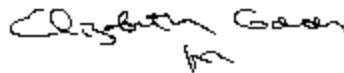
2. New road construction shall be limited to the summer dry season.

Should Oregon Coast steelhead become listed under the ESA, or should critical habitat be designated, the NMFS expects the March 6, 1997, conference opinion, and this letter, to serve as the basis for a biological opinion on implementation of Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project, pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.10(d).

This concludes reinitiation of conference for Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration Project in accordance with 50 CFR § 402.16. The Siuslaw NF must reinitiate conference if new information becomes available or circumstances occur that may affect the above mentioned species in a manner or to an extent not previously not considered, or if a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the actions.

If you have any specific questions please contact Garwin Yip at (503) 230-5419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Stelle, Jr.", with a stylized flourish underneath.

William Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator

cc: Mike Clady - USFS

bcc: F/PR2 - P. Montanio
F/PR8 - R. Ziobro F/NWO3 - File Copy, G. Yip
HCD Files - [693]
GCNW - M. Eames
F/NW0 - NWR Secretary
Electronic copy to Joshua Moldover (NMFS-5)

J:\ADMINPDX\OSB\Biological Opinions\1997\Big Elk Managed Stands Restoration
Project\OSB1997-0693_Reiniation_12-15-1997.wpd

OSB § 7 #: OSB1997-0693-RI

Address for cc:

Mike Clady
Siuslaw National Forest
P.O. Box 1148
Corvallis, Oregon 97330